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West's Military Status Seen As Talk Topic

Washington, Nov. 5 (P)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and President Truman met today for conferences evidently concerned, among other things, with the military situation of the western world.

There were reports the United States was preparing to put forward in the United Nations a "peace plan" calling for a world wide census of arms, including atomic weapons.

Eisenhower, who flew home last week from his European defense command at Mr. Truman's suggestion, arrived at the White House ten minutes early for his meeting with the President. He had been invited to come at 12.45 P.M. for luncheon alone with the President.

The general had little to say to reporters. He did tell the newsmen he expected to fly back to Europe tomorrow and hoped to talk with them just before leaving.

Pose For Photographers

A few minutes after Eisenhower went into the President's office, the two men came out together to go across Pennsylvania avenue to the Blair House for their luncheon. They posed together for photographers. Then they got into an automobile and were driven over to Blair House.

Although all circumstances pointed to the prospect that momentous decisions were in the making, there was little expansion from official sources on the reasons for the conferences here.

Informants said Mr. Truman would discuss with Eisenhower the

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speech the President will make Wednesday night on foreign policy.

Reports were that the next day this would be followed up by a United States proposal in the United Nations meeting at Paris for the arms census.

The White House declined comment on this report, attributed in Paris to reliable sources.

Defense Parley Set

Mr. Truman's schedule gave him over two hours alone with Eisenhower. He had no further engagements, after the beginning of the luncheon, until the time when the two men were to be joined by top defense officials for a general conference.

The General, however, didn't use that much time. He left Blair House by automobile at 2.20 P.M., nearly an hour before the opening time of the more general talk. He went to the Pentagon and a second round of talks with Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Despite the insistence of everybody concerned that Eisenhower was here solely to talk about military matters, there was speculation that politics might come, at least indirectly, into the meeting with Mr. Truman.

Politically conscious Washington found it difficult to believe that Mr. Truman would not seek at least some indication as to whether he may have to find a successor for Eisenhower as commander of the European defense forces—something which would be necessary if the General let himself be drawn into the 1952 presidential race.

Eisenhower began his day early

He was at the Pentagon before 9 A.M.

Talks With Bradley

At the military headquarters, he talked first with Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They were together about 50 minutes.

In company with Bradley, Eisenhower then went to the office of Secretary of Defense Lovett. They were closeted there for some 40 minutes.

When he left Lovett's office, Eisenhower was met by Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, head of the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA has the job of co-ordinating diplomatic and military intelligence and making assessments of the world situation.

Hopes For Report

At the White House, Joseph Short, presidential press secretary, indicated there would be nothing given out on the Truman-Eisenhower conferences before late afternoon.

Short emphasized that the luncheon meeting was "private" but said he would try to give reporters a "fill-in" on the full-dress conference at the White House later.

Charles E. Wilson, the defense mobilization director, as well as top military officials, was invited to this meeting.

This seemed to lend weight to speculation that one of the matters of prime concern was the rate of delivery of arms to United States partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Eisenhower is known to be concerned that arms are not coming

through faster.